

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
NSC-05 SS-15 SP-02 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01 PA-01
CA-01 SCS-06 AID-05 HA-05 SSO-00 /074 W
-----003402 150217Z /70

R 132046Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
SECSTATE WASHDC 7674

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1767

PANAMA FOR RSS: LIMA FOR DASS:

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: INCREASING ACTIVITY BY LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS

1. INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT A LEFTIST ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN PLANNING THE KIDNAPPING OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR HAD, BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED PROTECTION OF THE AMBASSADOR, PICKED OUT A NEW TARGET FOR A KIDNAP ATTEMPT. THIS NEWEST TRAGET IS REPORTED TO BE THE ECONOMIC OFFICER. THE ECON OFFICER AND HIS WIFE WERE MOVED TO AN APARTMENT AND THEIR DOMESTIC HELP WERE TOLD THAT THEY WERE LEAVING THE COUNTRY FOR A SHORT TRIP. OTHER SECURITY MEASURES, (CHANGING ROUTES AND TIMES, TO AND FROM THE OFFICE--BUDDY SYSTEM) WERE IMPLEMENTED BY EMBASSY BECAUSE OF THE THREAT. THE ECON OFFICER WAS SCHEDULED FOR HL AND TRANSFER IN JUNE 78. AT THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST, THE DEPT. SHORTENED THE OFFICER'S TOUR AND HE WILL DEPART 16 APR. 78.

2. ON 11 APR 78, IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE RADIO THAT THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC, (BPR) WOULD OCCUPY THE EMBASSIES OF PANAMA, VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, SWITZERLAND AND MEXICO.
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ON THAT DATE, THEY DID OCCUPY THE EMBASSY OF PANAMA AND THE EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA. ON 12 APR 78, MEMBERS OF THE SAME GOUP OCCUPIED THE EMBASSY OF COSTA RICA. THE NUMBER OF BPR MEMBERS, REPORTED IN THE EMBASSIES RANGE FROM 20 TO 30 IN EACH EMBASSY. THE OCCUPIERS ARE REQUESTING RELEASE OF PERSONS RECENTLY PLACED IN JAIL BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY; CESSATION OF ALLEGED REPRESSION

OF PEOPLE IN THESE AREAS BY GOES AND GUARANTEES THAT DISPLACED
CAMPESINOS CAN RETURN SAFELY TO THEIR HOMES.

3. GOES HAS PROVIDED ARMED TROOPS FOR PROTECTION OF CHANCERIES
AND RESIDENCES. HOWEVER AS OF DRAFTING OF THIS
MESSAGE, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE SWISS EMBASSY HAS JUST
BEEN OCCUPIED BY MEMBERS OF THE BPR.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AS RECEIVED.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ASEC
To: PANAMA
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